THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) On January 23, 2003, the Government of Pakistan asked for the withdrawal of four officials of the High Commission of India in Islamabad allegedly on account of their involvement in activities incompatible with their official status.

On February8, 2003, the Government of Pakistan took similar measures against five more officials including the Charge d'Affaires of the Indian High Commissions in Islamabad.

(c) The allegations were totally baseless and Government rejected them completely. Pakistan's actions were also a clear and unjustified retaliation, based on an approach of compulsive hostility, to the necessary measures Government had taken in view of harassment of our officials and Cd'A in Islamabad, and the involvement of officials of Pakistan High Commission, including their Cd'A in funding of terrorist and secessionist activities directed against India.

Sharing of Indus Water

269. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether sharing of water of the Indus river between India and Pakistan is regulated by any bilateral legislation or any treaty or agreement between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the legislation or agreement, as the case may be, puts some obligations to be fulfilled by the two countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in recent years, Pakistan is lagging behind in fulfilling its treaty obligations and if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for the utilization of the waters of the Indus system of rivers, fixes and delimits the rights and obligations of each country in relation to the other concerning the use of these waters.

The Treaty, *inter-alia*, provides that all the waters of the Eastern Rivers, the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej shall be available for the unrestricted use of India, except as otherwise expressly provided. The Treaty obligates India to let flow all the waters of the Western rivers, the Jhelum, the Chenab and the Indus, and not permit any interference with these waters except for Domestic and Non-consumptive use as also for defined Agricultural and Hydroelectric power generation purposes.

(d) In recent years, Pakistan has raised objections on Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant being constructed by India on the river Chenab in the State of J&K.The matter is under discussion in the Permanent Indus Commission.

Harassment of Indian High Commission Officials at Islamabad

270. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Pakistani Intelligence Agencies have been harassing the Indian High Commission Officials at Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details of such violations of basic norms of diplomatic behaviours that came to Government's notice during the past few months;

(c) whether Government have forwarded any letter of protest to Pakistan Government in this regard and drawn attention of the international community towards such incidents;

(d) if so, reaction of the Pakistani Government as well as the international community in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such violations are not repeated in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) In the past few months, the officials of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad have been subjected to threatening telephone calls, intimidatory and obstructive surveillance, offensive behaviour and expulsion on baseless and unfounded allegations.